

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed June 25, 2007. Claims 4-8 were pending in the Application prior to this Amendment, and stand rejected. Claims 4-8 have been canceled by this amendment, and new claims 14-20 have been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the following remarks.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for informalities related to the claim language. Claim 6 has been canceled in favor of rewriting the subject matter of claim 6 as new claim 17, as discussed more fully below.

Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 4-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art in view of U.K. Patent Application No. GB 2 009 362 to McLellan in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,792,401 to Burnham. Claims 4-8 have been canceled in favor of writing the subject matter of these claims as new claims 14, 15, and 17-19, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants assert that no new matter has been added by new claims 14, 15, and 17-19.

New claim 14 is directed to a method of making a reinforced hose assembly, comprising:

winding at least one layer of hose material onto a rotating mandrel to form a length of the hose assembly;

creating non-adhesive portions and adhesive portions at selected locations along the length of the hose assembly;

winding a reinforcing rod atop the non-adhesive portions and the adhesive portions of the at least one layer of hose material; and

curing the at least one layer of hose material.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance because the references of record, taken alone or in combination, fail to disclose each and every element of claim 14. In particular, the Examiner admits that McLellan '362 fails to disclose treating a length of hose to create non-adhesive regions. (Office Action mailed June 25, 2007, at page 3.) Rather, the hose of McLellan '362 includes plies of woven fabric material 2 overlaid upon an inner vulcanized-rubber layer 1. (See McLellan '362 at p. 1, lines 127-130.) A wire 3 is wound upon the fabric layer. McLellan '362 therefore does not require non-adhesive portions to prevent the wire from adhering to the fabric material.

Burnham '401 also does not disclose creating non-adhesive portions at selected locations along the length of a hose assembly. Rather, Burnham '401 discloses hardening a tube 60 by cooling or curing the tube material to prevent reinforcement material 63 from embedding into the thickness of the tube. Burnham '401 therefore does not disclose a modification of the hose of McLellan '362 that results in the creation of non-adhesive portions. Nor would persons skilled in the art be led to make such a modification, because the fabric material of McLellan '362 already does not adhere to

the applied wire. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 15 and 17-19 each depend from independent claim 14 and are, therefore, in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request early and favorable indication of allowance of claims 15 and 17-19.

New Claim

New claim 16 has been added by this Amendment and depends from claim 15. Claim 16 further recites "removing the non-adhesive material from the hose assembly after curing the at least one layer of hose material." Support for this amendment can be found with reference to the Application at page 6, lines 16-17. Accordingly, Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by new claim 16.

Claim 16 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 14, and also because the references of record fail to disclose removing a non-adhesive material from a hose assembly after curing a hose layer, as set forth therein.

New claim 20 has been added by this amendment and depends from claim 15. Claim 20 further recites that "the non-adhesive portions are created prior to winding the reinforcing rod upon the mandrel." Support for claim 20 can be found with reference to claim 4, which has been canceled. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by claim 20.

While the Examiner asserts that Burnham '401 applies a curing material to the tube (60) "prior to the introduction of the reinforcement onto the tube," (Office Action at page 4), claim 20 states that the non-adhesive portions are created "prior to winding the reinforcing rod upon the mandrel." (Emphasis added.) The Application states that "[u]sually the trolley (38) will apply a layer in a first direction and the next layer in the opposite direction for symmetry and design purposes." (Application at page 5, lines 1-2.) While claim 20, therefore, recites creating non-adhesive regions prior to winding the reinforcing rod onto the mandrel, Burnham '401 only discloses cooling or applying a curing material as the reinforcement (63) is applied to tube (60). (See Burnham '401 at col. 11, lines 40-56 and FIG. 9.)

In other words, according to the claimed method, reinforcing rod is not applied to any portion of the hose assembly until the non-adhesive portions have been created. In contrast, Burnham '401 discloses the application of a curing material to a portion of a tube while reinforcing material is being wound onto the tube, but immediately before that portion receives the reinforcing material. Meanwhile, other portions of the tube have already been wound with the reinforcing material. (See, e.g., Burnham '401 at col. 11, lines 40-56 and FIGS. 9-10.) Burnham '401, therefore, does not disclose creating non-adhesive portions prior to winding a reinforcing rod onto a mandrel. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants submit that claim 20 is in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth herein, Applicants believe this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes any matter requires further discussion, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the issue may be promptly resolved. The Examiner's prompt attention to this matter is appreciated.

Applicants are of the opinion that no fee is due as a result of this communication. However, if any such fee is due, please apply such fees or credits necessary to complete this communication to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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